

Boston Society of Natural History,' of which we had received early copies. Looking over the perfect volume, which has lately reached us, we find a third paper likely to interest the readers of 'The Ibis,' being some remarks by Dr. H. Bryant, "On some of the Birds that breed in the Gulf of St. Lawrence*." The occasion of these remarks was a trip that Dr. Bryant made to Labrador in the summer of 1860, "for the purpose of procuring specimens of eggs of those sea-birds that breed there, and also to ascertain what changes, if any, had taken place in their economy since Audubon's visit." The whole of Dr. Bryant's paper will amply merit perusal, and, did space permit it, would be well worthy of being reproduced in these pages. As, however, that is not the case, we must content ourselves with stating that notes, more or less copious, are given on *Somateria mollissima*, *Sula bassana*, *Phalacrocorax carbo*, *P. dilophus*, *Thalassidroma leachii*, *Larus marinus*, *L. argentatus*, *Alca torda*, *Uria grylle*, *U. troile*, *U. ringvia*, *U. lomvia*, and some others. "Every available spot on the sides of Gannet Rock, not already occupied by Gannets or Kittiwakes, had been taken possession of by the three last-mentioned species of Guillemots and the Razor-billed Auks; their comparative numbers were about three of *U. troile* to two of *U. lomvia* and one of *U. ringvia*, and about one Auk to fifty Guillemots."

XI.—*Letters, Extracts from Correspondence, Notices, &c.*

WE have received the following letters:—

Akyab, Arracan, August 13, 1862.

SIR,—In No. 7 of 'The Ibis,' for July 1860, p. 297, which I have only now had an opportunity of seeing, occurs a passage on which I beg the favour of your allowing me to say a few words.

In allusion to an "Itinerary" contributed by me to the 5th Number of vol. xxviii. of the Asiatic Society's Journal, you remark that "an appendix to this paper contains descriptions of some birds supposed to be new, procured during the journey; but

* Proc. B. S. N. H. viii. p. 65.

as all the species have been previously named by Mr. Blyth in his 'Report,' published in the previous Number of the same Journal, it would have been better not to have given Major Tickell's manuscript names, which are merely useless synonyms."

I feel very sure you would not have made that remark had you been aware of the particulars of the case; I will therefore furnish you with them.

On my return from the expedition in the Tenasserim hills, described in the "Itinerary," I sent to the Museum, of which Mr. Blyth is curator, a box of birds' skins, containing several species, not "supposed," but "believed" and in fact known to be new; and to each of these hitherto undescribed birds I appended the specific name, which I, as the discoverer and first describer of the birds, had, of course, a right to give. These names were entered in a list sent with the box, and I mentioned to Mr. Blyth that the descriptions of them would shortly follow.

Mr. Blyth, however, at once reported upon the birds to the Society, and named them himself. He certainly wrote to me regarding the propriety of altering some of the trivial names, but not till the deed was done, and my assent or dissent equally unavailing; consequently, when the appendix to my "Itinerary" was published, my names appeared as "useless synonyms."

Without imputing to Mr. Blyth (from whom I have to acknowledge often receiving much assistance and valuable information) a desire to appropriate my discoveries as his own, it is evident that the somewhat hasty publication of his list deprives me of a right which etiquette in these matters has always recognized. It would be better justice in all cases, I think, if the name of the discoverer should always be recorded instead of that of the mere namer. Long-established custom, however, has decided otherwise; but it would be hard indeed if the person who was both discoverer and describer should not have his name attached to his contributions!

I annex a list of the birds to which I lay claim as discovered by myself. Some of these have been named by Mr. Blyth, and must so remain, as I either had no leisure to describe them myself before they reached his hands, or sent them to him

under an uncertainty of their being new. To each bird is affixed the date of its discovery.

1. *Ptiloskelos amherstii*, Tickell, March 24, 1859 (supposed by Mr. Blyth to be the young of *Huhua orientalis*).

2. *Pellornium tickelli*, Blyth, February 24, 1859.

3. *Turdinus guttatus*, Tickell, March 2, 1859.

4. *T. brevicaudatus*, Blyth, February 15, 1855.

5. *T. crispifrons*, Blyth, January 8, 1855.

6. *Sibia picata*, Tickell, February 28, 1859. (Syn. *S. melanoleuca*, Blyth.)

7. *Pycnonotus nanus*, Tickell, March 2, 1859. (Syn. *Ixulus striatus*, Blyth.)

8. *Abrornis superciliaris*, Blyth, February 24, 1859.

9. *Buceros tickelli*, Blyth, January 27, 1855.

10. *Garrulax strepitans*, Tickell, November 15, 1855.

11. *G. poliogenys*, Blyth, February 13, 1855.

12. *Pteruthius aeralatus*, Tickell, February 14, 1855.

13. *Parus subviridis*, Tickell, February 14, 1855.

— 14. *Pomatorhinus tickelli*, Blyth, February 14, 1855.

15. *Phylloscopus viridipennis*, Blyth, February 15, 1855.

16. *P. affinis*, Tickell, November 29, 1854.

17. *Hypsipetes tickelli*, Blyth, February 15, 1855.

18. *Arboricola chloropus*, Tickell, February 8, 1859. (Syn. *Tropicoperdix chloropus*, Blyth.)

19. *A. brunneopectus*, Tickell, February 11, 1855.

Our East Indian field-ornithologists appear to occupy a very small space in your delightful periodical. But I hope to be permitted to contribute to its interesting pages, from time to time, the results of over thirty years' research into Indian ornithology.

Yours, &c.,

S. R. TICKELL.

Colchester, November 12, 1862.

SIR,—I think all ornithologists are indebted to Lord Lilford for his paper on the Francolin in your last Number.

I was quite aware, as I mentioned in my notice of the bird in my work, that *F. vulgaris* had become a rare bird in Europe.

My words are, "with the exception, however, of Sicily and

the Grecian Archipelago, the Francolin is becoming a rare bird in Europe.”*

I was not prepared, however, to state that it had become “extinct in Europe,” and I will show that I did not stand alone in such opinion. It is true that Malherbe, when he wrote his ‘Faune Ornithologique de la Sicile’ in 1843, remarked that it was becoming more and more rare in that island. Yet Luigi Benoit, from whom, as Lord Lilford remarks, Malherbe quoted *verbatim*, has recorded that, in 1840, it was so common in Sicily as to fetch only 1 franc and 25 centimes in the market! That it should now be extinct in Sicily is therefore one of the most remarkable and, at the same time, one of the most interesting facts in natural history.

My authorities for the occurrence of the Francolin in Malta and the Grecian Archipelago were Temminck, Schlegel, and Degland. I am assured, however, by Dr. Leith Adams and Mr. Charles Wright that it does not, and they believe never did, exist in Malta. Temminck and Degland both give Turkey as a locality.

Since the publication of Lord Lilford’s interesting paper, I have made some further inquiries, the result of which goes far towards confirming his views.

M. de Selys Longchamps writes to me:—

(*Translation.*)

“I have nothing original to say upon the Francolin question. The following are the authorities *pro* and *con*:—

“1. Luigi Benoit (*Ornitologia Siciliana*, 1840, p. 118). ‘Found in the southern parts of Sicily, especially in the plains which extend between Castiglione and Terranova; but it has become more and more rare, owing to unfair sporting. It sells for 1 franc 25 centimes (1 shilling).’

“2. Antonio Schembri (*Quadro geografico-ornitologico di Malta, Sicilia, Roma, Toscana, Liguria, Nizza, e la Provincia di Gard: Malta*, 1843). ‘I have never found the Francolin at Malta. Sedentary at Terra Nova and Castiglione, in Sicily. Now rare in Tuscany. Formerly common there, according to Savi. Accidental during its passage at Nice.’

* *Birds of Europe*, vol. iii. p. 237.

“ 3. Malherbe (Orn. Sic.) gives a copy of L. Benoit, but adds as a locality ‘Cyprus.’

“ Negative authorities.

“ 1. Not found in the Cyclades (Erhardt, Wirbelthiere der Cyclades).

“ 2. Not found in Algeria (Loche).

“ 3. Not in Greece (Mühle).

“ 4. Not in Corsica (Malherbe).

“ 5. Not in Sardinia (Gaetano Cara, Orn. di Sardegna).

“ 6. Not found in Russia (Nordmann, Voyage de Demidoff, 1840). But the same authority adds, ‘It does occur on the S. and S.W. coasts of the Black Sea, in European Turkey, and in Asia Minor.’ ”

M. E. Verreaux writes :—“ My brother Jules’s opinion agrees with mine, that *Francolinus vulgaris* has become extinct in Europe, and that the specimens scattered about in commerce at this time, and sold as European, come from India, and are of a distinct species, viz. *F. asiæ*, Bp. Formerly, there can be no doubt that the true *F. vulgaris* was found in Sicily, Greece, and Turkey ; but I am not aware that a single specimen has been brought from these localities for more than thirty years.”

Lord Lilford seems to deny that Cyprus and the Grecian Archipelago are European localities. I think, however, we must retain the Mediterranean islands, at all events, in the Ornis of Europe, whatever geographers may say to the contrary.

Sicily is quite, and Sardinia nearly, as near to Africa as Cyprus is to Asia ; and how are we to divide the Archipelago ?

Prince Charles Bonaparte, though he considered the Cyprian Francolin distinct from the Sicilian species, having described it as *F. tristriatus* from three bands of white on the side of the head, nevertheless admitted it as a European species both in his ‘Tableau parallélique de l’Ordre des Gallinacés’ and in his Catalogue, published in 1856, with the additional localities of Crete and Candia.

The bird which I have figured is, however, the *Francolinus vulgaris*, Stephens, and was obtained by Mr. Tristram in Cyprus.

The wide-spread circulation of ‘The Ibis’ on the Continent

will, I hope, be the means of eliciting further information on this interesting subject.

I am, I confess, unwilling to give up as extinct in Europe a species described by Stephens in 1819 as occupying all the warm parts of Europe, from Spain to the Levant.

C. R. BREE, M.D.

Since the above letter was received, Mr. Bree has forwarded to us the following translation of a letter from Prof. Schlegel:—

“Leyden, Nov. 20, 1862.

“SIR,—I can assure you, in the most conscientious manner, that *Francoelinus vulgaris* is found in Europe.

“Our former traveller, M. Cantraine, now Professor in the University of Gard, killed many specimens of this bird in Sicily, of which we have many in the galleries of our Museum. You will find, beside, in the ‘Faune Sicile’ by M. Malherbe, many remarks about the habits of this bird, and upon modes by which it is taken in Sicily. This savant also states that it does not inhabit any other part of the world, except Sicily and the island of Cyprus. I do not find it mentioned either in the Fauna of Portugal or that of Greece.

“Yours, &c.,

“H. SCHLEGEL.”

Mr. J. H. Gurney sends us the following note on *Hirundo monteiri*, figured in our last Number (vol. iv. pl. 11):—

“The figure given of this Swallow in ‘The Ibis,’ vol. iv. p. 340, would appear not to be the first representation of this species which has been published, as the ‘Hirondelle à ventre roux, du Sénégal,’ figured by Buffon in the ‘Planches Enluminées,’ pl. 310, is a bird without the rufous nuchal collar, and therefore probably identical with that to which the designation of ‘*Hirundo monteiri*’ has now been given.

“It is also worthy of remark, that in the short description given by Linnæus of his *Hirundo senegalensis* no allusion is made to the rufous collar.

“Brisson, on the contrary, describes the *Hirundo senegalensis* as having ‘le col roux,’ in which he is followed by more recent naturalists.

“ The geographical boundaries of the two species will be an interesting subject of inquiry.

“ Is it possible that the presence or absence of the nuchal collar is not a specific, but a sexual distinction ?

“ Perhaps this is a question deserving the attention of observers who may have the opportunity of ascertaining the fact.

“ J. H. GURNEY.”

Dr. G. Hartlaub has lately received some important ornithological MSS. from Freiherr von Heuglin, relating to his recent discoveries on the White Nile. One of these we have already given (*anteà*, p. 31). Dr. Hartlaub further mentions a new *Corephegnathus*, a *Lamprocolius*, two *Ardeæ*, and a *Ciconia*, as being of great interest. The latter is described, “ *cauda longa, profunde furcata, alba; rectrice prima valde elongata, nigra.*” This very anomalous Stork von Heuglin calls *Ciconia pruyssenaeri*, after the Belgian Baron Pruyssenaer de Lawostyne, from Bruges, who has lately been exploring the White Nile.

Mr. Gerard Krefft, in a letter dated Sydney, April 24, says :—

“ During the last week, I have noticed a great number of the Yellow-eared Black Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus xanthonotus*). Flocks of from ten to fifty have been flying over the Museum, which is situated in a central part of the city. Their favourite place of resort is the thick scrubby country between Randovick and Botany. Though within a few miles of Sydney, this place is seldom disturbed by any of our Sunday sportsmen, which may account for the tameness of the birds ; for I approached within twenty yards of a large flock several times. They seem to feed on the *Banksiæ* and *Eucalypti*, of which all the thickets are composed ; and their plaintive cries may be heard for miles.

“ If one of these birds is wounded, you are sure of the whole flock ; they will not leave a companion in distress : and I am sorry to say that when on a collecting expedition to the Lower Darling, I often took advantage of their attachment to each other, and bagged as many out of a flock as the men of the camp could skin.”

The following extracts are from Mr. Blyth's recent letters :—

“ We have two allied species of Owl from Africa, each of which

I have at different times referred to the *Strix maculosa*, Vieillot, vel *Str. africana*, Temm. (Pl. Col. 50), which figure I have not now the advantage of consulting. Lesson classed this bird in *Otus*, in which he is followed by G. R. Gray in his 'British Museum Catalogue of Raptorial Birds' (1848), while Kaup assigns it to *Bubo*. The form belongs neither to one nor to the other; but a name will probably be found for it in the 'Synopsis Avium' of the late Prince of Canino*. In the size of the auditory orifices it accords rather with *Bubo*. The two species bear much the same relationship to each other in appearance that *Syrnium aluco* of Europe and N. Africa does to *S. nivicolum* of the Himalaya; but the difference is greater, inasmuch as the species from S. Africa has a considerably longer shank than that from E. Africa.

"The East-African bird is perhaps the *Otus madagascariensis* of Sir A. Smith (Catal. of S. African Museum), a description of which I have not seen; but it is more probably new and undescribed. It is the *Bubo* (?) *africanus* apud nos, from Somâli Land, procured by Capt. Speke, and described in J. A. S. xxiv. p. 298 (1855), where the provisional name *spekii* is suggested for it†.

"The other, from South Africa, is clearly the *Strix maculosa* of Vieillot or *Strix africana* of Temminck, which, as a sufficiently well-known species, I need not describe. It is larger than the preceding, with a proportionally longer shank, and bears, as I have said, a considerable resemblance in the colouring of its plumage to the Himalayan *Syrnium nivicolum*.

"Already I have a new Indian Raptorial to add to my catalogue—*Hæmatornis elgini*, Tytler, nearly allied to *H. cheela*, but of smaller size and much darker colouring, and with the occipital feathers less elongated; being further strongly distinguished by the markings of its great alar and caudal feathers. Instead of the broad pale band crossing the tail-feathers of *H. cheela*, the new species has a series of three narrow pale caudal bands,—the last subterminal, only half an inch broad, beyond which the black tail-tip is $1\frac{1}{4}$ in. Perhaps in the

* The term *Nisuellia* is used for this Section by Bp., Rev. Zool. 1854, p. 542.—ED.

† It is probably *Bubo dillonii*, Des Murs, Lefebvre's Voyage en Abyssinie, Zool. p. 73, pl. 3.—ED.

newly moulted plumage there may be slightly albescent extreme tips to the tail-feathers. Also, in lieu of the broad whitish bands which predominate on the under surface of the wing of *H. cheela*, our present species has slight and narrow pale cross-bands, the dark colour much predominating; and the white spots on the anterior portion of the inner surface of the wing are a good deal smaller. Irides yellow. Length of fresh bird 21 in.; extent $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet; closed wing 14 in.; tail 9 in.; tarsi 3 in. Sex not stated. This being Tytler's first discovery in the Andamans, he has named it after the Viceroy. Both this and *H. cheela* inhabit the Andamans; but the new species would appear to be the more common of the two there. A second discovery Tytler names after the late Viceroy. It is an Andamanese Crake (*Euryzona canningi*, Tytler), most like *E. zeylanica* of India, but very much larger, with tail proportionally more developed. Entire upper parts and breast of a rich dark colour approaching to maroon; a slight olivaceous tinge about the rump; throat less deeply coloured; the abdominal region, flanks, and plumes black, with from two to four transverse white bands on each feather; under surface of the wing much the same. Length of recent specimen (♀) 13 in.; extent 21 in.; bill to gape $1\frac{1}{2}$ in.; tarsi 2 in.; closed wing $6\frac{1}{2}$ in.; tail $3\frac{1}{2}$ in., and very cuneiform. Bill yellow, with slight tinge of green; eyes reddish orange; feet slate-green.

"Tytler's new *Dendrocitta* he has not sent yet, but he thus describes it:—

"*D. bazlei*, Tytler. Length $13\frac{1}{2}$ in.; wing $4\frac{3}{4}$ in.; bill to gape 1 in.; tarsi 1 in.; wings and tail nearly black, with a broad white patch on wing; head, neck, and throat dark brown; back more rufous; belly and vent very rufous or chestnut; tail with twelve feathers (therefore not a *Crypsirhina*). Not uncommon on the main island.'"

Dr. Schlegel sends us the following notes:—

1. Amongst the skins of birds collected by Dr. Bernstein in the island of Mortay, there is a new species of *Lycocorax* (*L. morotensis*, Bernstein), resembling the *L. pyrrhopterus*, but somewhat larger, and having the primaries from the 2nd to the 7th white for the first third of their length. I do not find this

species amongst the new birds from Mortay, mentioned by Mr. Wallace in your 'Ibis' for October 1862, which Number I have only just received.

2. In the same Number I find the description and figure of a new species of *Ptilopus*, by Des Murs and J. Verreaux, under the name of *Leucotreron gironieri*. I had described and figured this bird in the course of last summer, under the name of *Ptilopus geversi*, in the 'Nederlandsch Tijdschrift voor de Dierkunde.' Unfortunately the publication of this work can only begin with 1863, although nine sheets of it were printed six months ago.

3. In this same 'Tijdschrift' you will find a description and figure of my *Ptilopus bernsteinii* from Batjan and Halmaheira. Not dreaming that this bird could already have taken a place in the genus *Carpophaga*, I found, quite by chance, and only after receiving males of it in perfect plumage, that my bird is the female, or the male in imperfect plumage, of *Carpophaga formosa*, G. R. Gray. But I believe the name of *Ptilopus bernsteinii* will stand, as there exists already a *P. formosus*, mentioned by G. R. Gray in the very paper wherein he notices his *Carpophaga formosa*.

Mr. S. Stevens, agent to Mr. F. Plant, has received a letter from him, dated Tamatave, Madagascar, August 29, 1862, in which he announces his safe arrival in that island. He states that he left Mauritius on the 5th of August, and, after four days' delightful sailing, arrived at Tamatave on the 9th. He found the letters of introduction kindly furnished him by Mr. Newton, M. Chauvin and others at Mauritius, of great use to him. Although he had only been there a fortnight, he had already collected about 800 insects, principally Lepidoptera, in the neighbourhood of Tamatave, and skinned a few birds. As the neighbourhood of Tamatave was not good collecting-ground, he was about to proceed to Alamazoatra, a village on the side of a large forest. He hoped to have a consignment of natural history to send to England in October. He says, "The natives are more civilized than I expected to find them, and appear to have a great respect for all Europeans. I go about with them without the least fear: they are always ready to do anything for me."